United States Patent [19]

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[54] **HIGH VOID VOLUME/ENHANCED FIRMNESS TOBACCO ROD AND METHOD OF PROCESSING TOBACCO**

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[58] Field of Search 131/355, 359, 369, 364, 131/77, 78, 79, 84.1, 364, 352, 39, 42, 43, 44, 49

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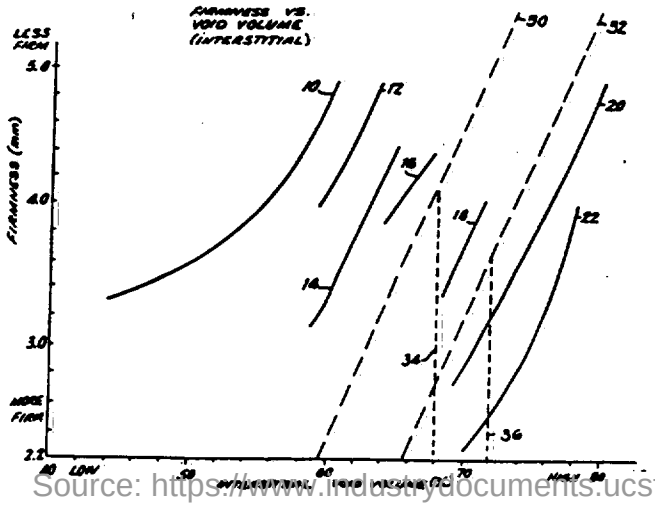
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tobacco product characterized by improved void volume and firmness characteristics and a method of making a tobacco product by applying binder material to tobacco filler, treating the filler to the extent necessary to cause the filler to become substantially non-tacky, forming a rod, activating the binder and treating the rod to the extent necessary to cause the filler shreds to become bonded to one another.

38 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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